

pension plans, provided workers with meaningful disclosure about the financial status of their benefits, and protected taxpayers from a possible multi-billion dollar bailout of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC).

The Pension Protection Act's reforms were built on six fundamental principles that helped ensure a stronger, more secure retirement for millions of American workers. Those principles were: certainty, with a permanent and more accurate calculation of employers' pension liabilities; common sense, which enabled employers to build up a cushion in their pension plans during good economic times; stability, achieved by closing funding loopholes and ensuring employers make adequate and consistent cash payments to their plans; transparency through timely and straightforward information given to employees about the health of their retirement plans; honesty from employers and union leaders, who are no longer permitted to make hollow promises of extra benefits that will never materialize because a plan is severely underfunded; and portability, established by ensuring that hybrid plans, such as cash balance pensions—which offer portable, more generous worker benefits—remain a viable part of the defined benefit system. Having served as the Chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce during this process, I am pleased to have been part of this effort.

Of course, it is to be expected that in legislation of that magnitude, we did not get every word perfect, or every provision as clear as it could be. That is the point of the bill before us today—H.R. 3361 is a narrow, technical bill that corrects inadvertent errors in drafting contained in the original law, and provides necessary clarification and focus, to ensure that the law is administered as Congress intended. For that reason, I support the bill before us today, and hope that it will quickly be enacted into law.

I must note for the record, however, that more remains to be done. The bill before us is very narrow in scope, and addresses only those issues that are considered purely technical on a consensus basis. There are other issues that remain to be addressed.

For example, late last year, the Senate passed by unanimous consent its own version of a technical corrections bill, which included critical clarifications with respect to the issue of asset smoothing. I would hope that this issue is addressed in any final technical correction package that we consider.

Also, there are numerous provisions which Members and staff have discussed since enactment of the 2006 law, which enjoy broad, bipartisan support, but which did not fall within the scope of this narrow package of technical corrections. Going forward, it will be necessary for us to address these items, and I stand ready to work with my Chairman, Mr. MILLER, and the distinguished Chairman and Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Committee in doing so.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I reiterate my support for this narrow legislation.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3361, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3361.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Dakota?

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING THE EXCEPTIONAL SACRIFICE OF THE 69TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, KNOWN AS THE FIGHTING 69TH

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 991) recognizing the exceptional sacrifice of the 69th Infantry Regiment, known as the Fighting 69th, in support of the Global War on Terror.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 991

Whereas the 69th Infantry Regiment, or the Fighting 69th, with citizen-soldiers from Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, the Bronx, Staten Island, and Long Island, has faithfully answered America's call to arms since its formation in 1851;

Whereas the Fighting 69th was one of the first units to assist in the recovery effort at the World Trade Center in New York following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack, where they lost a comrade, a firefighter;

Whereas the 69th Infantry Regiment, while deployed to Iraq as "Task Force Wolfhound", its first overseas combat since World War II, fought to defend the city of Al Taji against al-Qaeda terrorists, protected Iraq's first free elections, and secured the infamous "Route Irish", the most dangerous road in Baghdad;

Whereas 19 members of the Fighting 69th were killed in action and over 78 were wounded in Operation Wolfhound; and

Whereas the Fighting 69th has now served the Nation in 5 wars and over 20 campaigns, and Congress has awarded 6 members with the Congressional Medal of Honor: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 69th Infantry Regiment, or the Fighting 69th, as one of the great regiments in American military history;

(2) recognizes that America owes a tremendous debt for the exceptional service, patriotism, and fidelity of the soldiers of the Fighting 69th;

(3) recognizes that the Fighting 69th has continually participated in the Global War on Terror since the attack on September 11, 2001; and

(4) acknowledges that as the 69th Infantry Regiment deploys to Afghanistan to fight in the central front in the Global War on Terror, that the proud traditions of the regiment will be respected and that the sacrifices of one of America's most storied combat units will not go unnoticed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCINTYRE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

I rise today in support of H. Res. 991 which recognizes the exceptional service of the 69th Infantry Regiment known as the Fighting 69th in support of the conflicts that they have been involved in around the world. The 69th Infantry Regiment has a proud and strong history dating back to 1851 when it was created as the 69th New York Militia.

The regiment has an Irish heritage because at its inception it was made up entirely of Irish Americans. Not only is it to honor for their current contributions to this country, but also it is only fitting that with the approach of St. Patrick's Day this coming Monday, when we honor our country's Irish heritage, it is also equally important to recognize that based upon this unit's history and its Irish heritage that we recognize this unit at this time.

This unit, while deployed to Iraq as Task Force Wolfhound, secured the infamous Route Irish, which was one of the most dangerous roads in Baghdad. With that said, the Fighting 69th has now served our Nation in five wars and in over 20 campaigns. They are made up of New Yorkers from Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, the Bronx, Staten Island and Long Island. These servicemembers are a tremendous credit to themselves, to their country and their unit.

Those individuals who have previously served in the Fighting 69th would be proud of those that are currently serving and who are now carrying the mantle and battle colors of one of the greatest regiments in American history. The actions of the Fighting 69th, both after 9/11, to include their assistance and recovery efforts of the World Trade Center in New York, and their deployment now to Iraq, show the tremendous service and sacrifices this regiment has made, and that these servicemembers have individually, and, of course, collectively given their country. When the call to serve and fight has come, the Fighting 69th continues to answer that call.

I would like to thank my colleague and my friend and fellow member of the Blue Dog Coalition, Congressman STEVE ISRAEL of New York, who is a former member of the House Armed